

Appln No. 09/575,182
Amdt. Dated May 28, 2004
Response to Office action of March 16, 2004

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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1 to 12 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being obvious over Iwata in view of Drake. This is a new rejection following Applicant's submissions arguing against Examiner's previous rejections of the claims under the same ground but citing different prior art.

Applicant wishes to reiterate the comments made in the response to the previous office action. With respect, Examiner has failed to establish a prima facie obviousness case. Examiner has not provided evidence of a motivation or suggestion to combine the two cited documents. As stated in the previous response, the fact that the two citations are both in the same field of endeavour is not sufficient to establish that the person skilled in the art would combine the disclosures as a matter of routine. Applicant's arguments were not addressed but were considered to be moot in view of the new rejection citing the new prior art documents. Applicant respectfully disagrees. The law in respect of obviousness objections is well established and therefore the procedure for combining disclosures applies as much to the newly cited prior art as it does for the previously combined prior art documents.

Referring specifically to the citations, the configurations of each of the printers taught by Iwata and Drake are substantially different, for example Iwata teaches printing on to a flat medium passing between two rollers whereas Drake teaches printing onto a curved media disposed on a roller. A person skilled in the art, acting without hindsight and without any motivation or suggestion, would not seek to combine the disclosures of Iwata and Drake and would not be seeking to produce a printer configuration as defined by the present claims.

Whilst Drake discloses that the printhead is a pagewidth printhead, the disclosure clearly recites, at column 4 lines 16 to 21, that the printhead is configured for multi-pass printing, in contrast to present claim 1 which specifically requires that the printhead provides printing to the full page width in a single pass. Drake discloses an ink reservoir 14 but there is no disclosure of either the ink reservoir or the printhead being disposed within an elongate body as required by present claim 1. *dis agree*

Thus, Applicant respectfully contends that even if the disclosures of Iwata and Drake were to be combined, the combined disclosure does not anticipate the invention defined by present claim 1. Claim 1 defines a printer structure neither taught nor suggested by the prior art documents, either in isolation or in combination. Applicant therefore submits that claim 1, and the claims dependent on claim 1 are each novel and inventive.

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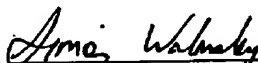
Applicant submits that this response is fully responsive to each of the issues raised in the Official Action, and accordingly, further consideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Very respectfully,

Applicants:



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